



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private
Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3409 (NA-07-06)

Date: March 21, 2007

Subject: Predatory Beetle Release Evaluations
(Monongahela National Forest Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project)

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

Three species of predatory beetles have been released in the Monongahela National Forest: *Scymnus sinuanodulus*, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, and *Laricobius nigrinus*. Insect surveys utilized after a release to recover beetles determining their presence in the area. In 2003, 5,000 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* beetles were released at the Fanny Bennett Tract and none were recovered. Bird Run Campground, Falls of Hills Creek, and Devils Garden had over 12,000 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* and *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles released in 2004 and none were recovered. In 2005, approximately 17,500 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* beetles were released at Old House Run, Blue Bend, Blue Meadow, Falls of Hills Creek, and Bird Run Campgrounds with no beetles recovered. A total of 800 *Scymnus sinuanodulus* and *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles were released in 2006 at Blue Bend Recreation Area and Lake Sherwood. *Laricobius nigrinus* were the only beetle to be detected in 2006.

Forest Health Protection personnel will continue to sample beetle release sites for predatory beetles. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this evaluation, please contact Richard Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUECKEL

Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Cc:
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
Glen Juergens, Forest Silviculturist

RMT/AC



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper

